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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 27 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on international cooperation to combat terrorism (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this statement distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 148.

(*Signed*) Andrey **Denisov**

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Annex to the letter dated 27 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on international cooperation to combat terrorism

The unprecedented and inhuman terrorist acts committed in the Russian Federation have elicited a huge wave of manifestations of solidarity with the people of the Russian Federation. The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation expresses its deep gratitude to all national parliaments, international organizations, State and public figures and peoples of foreign States that voiced their sympathy for our country and were with us at a difficult moment. The Russian Federation appreciates this help and cherishes its friends.

State Duma deputies are convinced that the internationalization of terrorism must now be countered by the internationalization of efforts to suppress it. We must finally recognize that only a united international community can destroy international terrorism and its social and economic roots and sources of financing. In the face of such a terrible threat, there is an urgent need to renounce efforts to achieve national geopolitical goals by any means available, including by allowing terrorists, religious fanatics, nationalists or separatists to be used as tactical fellow-travellers.

Against the backdrop of sincere expressions of support for the people of the Russian Federation, the statements by some foreign politicians and the news media attempting to pin responsibility for the terrorists' criminal acts on the Russian Federation, the target of their attacks, sound cynical and irresponsible. The State Duma reiterates in no uncertain terms its rejection of the use of double standards to combat the main scourge of our time. Terrorists cannot be good or bad; killers cannot be moderate. There can be no deals with those who shoot children in the back.

States that harbour rebel emissaries and allow extremist propaganda centres to operate freely in their territory and acts of provocation in support of separatism to be carried out are not only splitting the counter-terrorist coalition and encouraging bandits to commit new crimes but are endangering their own peoples. There is no alternative to international solidarity in combating terrorism, given the expanding geographical scope of terrorist acts since the turn of the twenty-first century, their growing brutality and the transformation of civilians, and even children, into the main target of terror.

The State Duma calls on the authorities of the United States of America and the authorities of the United Kingdom to act in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and to suppress the activities within their territories of Ilyas Akhmadov and Akhmed Zakayev, for whom there are international warrants. The State Duma also appeals to other States members of the counter-terrorist coalition not to allow persons suspected of involvement in terrorism into their territory and to help to isolate them internationally.

The international community must draw very serious lessons from the recent tragic events, take into account the mistakes allowed to occur and, finally, without waiting for next outrage to be committed by extremists, move from its stated readiness to coordinate efforts to combat international terrorism to effective steps to that end. The State Duma deputies recall previous initiatives and proposals by the State Duma regarding measures to combat international terrorism.

The State Duma will be making every effort to ensure that such an understanding prevails and is put into practice at the forthcoming events within the framework of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other forums in which Russian parliamentarians participate actively. In this connection, the State Duma notes the relevance of the provisions of the final declaration of the St. Petersburg Inter-parliamentary Forum on Combating Terrorism of 28 March 2002, which emphasizes the "inadmissibility of any double standards, stereotypes or selectivity on political grounds in interpreting acts and manifestations of terrorism in various regions of the world."

As it supports the actions taken by the President of the Russian Federation and the federal executive bodies, the State Duma, for its part, will do everything necessary to ensure that the unity of counter-terrorist efforts becomes a reality and that international terrorism may be combated effectively and the security of peoples and integrity of States guaranteed.

Moscow

22 September 2004